

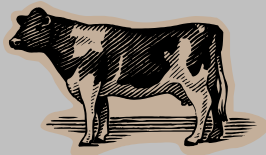
Broadwater County FSA
415 South Front Street
Townsend, MT 59644
Telephone: (406) 266-4253

County Committee

Bob Wilson, Chairperson
Charles Plymale, Vice-Chairperson
Tom Williams, Member
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FSA Office Personnel

Nina Fonk, Co. Executive Director
Tamie Hahn, Program Technician
Laura Cazier, Program Technician
Alan Jenne, Farm Loan Manager
Hal Plummer, Field Person



Dates to Remember:

January 1 – Begin accepting LDP Agreement for 2008 Crops

January – April – Continuation of Brand Liens

January 21– Office Closed – Holiday

January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for wool/mohair shorn in 2007

January 31 – Final LDP availability date for

2007 unshorn pelts

March 17, 2008 – NAP sales closing date for all 2008 crops except value loss and honey

Farm Service Agency

Broadwater County

January 2008

LIVESTOCK AND CROP DISASTER PROGRAMS
AMENDED TO INCLUDE 2007 LOSSES

Crop Disaster Program (CDP):

CDP was previously advertised for 2005, 2006, and 2007; however, it only applied to crops planted on or before February 28, 2007. CDP has now been amended to include 2007 crops planted on or before December 31, 2007.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and/or quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters. Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006 or 2007 may apply for benefits for multiple years, and receive payment for the most beneficial year. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year. Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits.

Livestock Compensation Program (LCP):

LCP was previously advertised for 2006 and the program has now been amended to include 2007 losses.

This livestock disaster program may provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock feed losses and additional feed costs caused by a natural disaster.

To be eligible for LCP, livestock must have been located in a county or a contiguous county designated a natural disaster between January 1, 2005 and December 31, 2007.

To be eligible for LCP, producers must have either owned or cash-leased eligible livestock on the beginning date of the applicable disaster period, **and**

- Suffered an eligible feed loss on dryland grazing crops as a result of a designated natural disaster and the feed lost was intended for use with claimed eligible livestock; **or**
- Incurred additional feed costs as a result of a designated natural disaster and the additional incurred feed costs were intended for use with claimed eligible livestock.

To Apply for Disaster Programs

To apply, producers should contact the local FSA office for an appointment. For a detailed explanation of eligibility requirements, please contact the local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

Change in Owner, Operator or Address

Producers are reminded to notify this office when you have a change of address, a sale of land or a change in operator. This is vital to assist this office in keeping records.

**Change in Direct Deposit Account**

The Debt Collection Act of 1996 mandates that payments from FSA be directly deposited into a producer's checking or savings bank account. It is important that any change in the producer's account such as type of account, bank mergers, routing number or account numbers be provided to the county office promptly to avoid possible payment delay.

**Submission of Applications via E-Government**

As required by the Freedom to E-File Act, eForms provides customers with the option to electronically access, fill out, and print paper forms, or obtain secure electronic access credentials for signing and transmitting forms and other documents electronically to their local Service Center. Level 2 access is required. Step-by-step instructions are available on the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt> under "I want to...Do Electronic Business with FSA on my Home Computer". Contact the local county FSA office to complete your Level 2 registration.

Farm Loans Offered

FSA offers direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operating loan programs to farmers and ranchers who are temporarily unable to obtain private commercial credit. Rural youth loans, Beginning Farmer and Rancher, and assistance for socially disadvantaged persons are also available.

Important Reminder to Wool and Mohair Producers!

To be eligible for a wool loan or LDP, a producer must maintain beneficial interest (title, risk of loss, and control of the commodity) through the date on which the loan is repaid or the LDP is requested.

To ensure eligibility for loans or LDP's, producers should sign an LDP Agreement for 2008 prior to shearing.

Beneficial interest will be considered to be lost upon delivery to the wool pool or may be lost immediately after shearing.

January 31 Deadline to Request 2007 Wool and Mohair Loans and LDPs

Wool and mohair producers have until January 31 to apply for either a nine-month, nonrecourse marketing assistance loan or a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP) for 2007-crop wool or mohair.

The national loan rate for ungraded wool offered as collateral will secure a non-recourse loan made at a rate of 40 cents per pound. For graded wool, loans will be based on the statutory rate of \$1.00 per pound. Producers who desire a non-recourse loan for mohair will receive the statutory rate of \$4.20 per pound. Loan rates will be adjusted based on a schedule of quality premiums and discounts applicable to the 2007 marketing year. The repayment amount per pound for mohair and for both graded and ungraded wool will be announced at close of business each Tuesday, and can be found on the Montana FSA website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

For Montana, the loan rates are divided into two regions by county. Broadwater and Lewis & Clark County producers should check the posted rates in region 3 at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/mktpclean3.xls or contact the local FSA office.

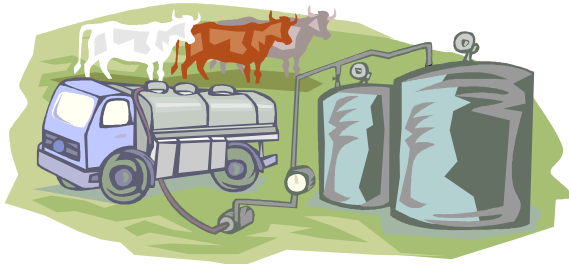
Instead of obtaining a loan, producers may request LDPs on these commodities. The LDP rates will be the difference between the per pound loan rate and the weekly announced repayment rate. The repayment prices reflect prices being offered in the current market.

Year End Reviews

Producers that have a farm loan with FSA are reminded they must provide data for their Year-End Analysis (YEA) to their loan officer each year. Borrowers are urged to provide this information timely so that their files can be maintained. The office will contact you for the data you will need to provide.

Controlled Substance

Any person who is convicted under federal or state law of a controlled substance may be ineligible for USDA payments or benefits. Violations include planting, harvesting, possessing or growing a prohibited plant. Prohibited plants include marijuana, opium poppies and other drug producing plants.



Dairy Disaster Program Begins

Signup began December 3rd for the Dairy Disaster Assistance Payment (DDAP-III) Program. DDAP-III will provide benefits to eligible dairy producers who suffered production losses during a variety of adverse weather conditions. Eligible counties are those counties that were declared a natural disaster in 2005, 2006 or 2007.

Production losses must have occurred between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2007 due to natural disasters.

The program compensates dairy producers who may have incurred decreases in annual production because of cattle and yield losses.



Farm Storage Facility Loans

FSA may make loans to producers to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

Commodities covered under this storage program are rice, soybeans, dry peas, lentils, small chickpeas, peanuts, sunflower, flaxseed, mustard seed, and other oilseeds as determined and announced. Corn, grain sorghum, oats, wheat, or barley harvested as whole grain or other than whole grain are also eligible.

Loans may be made only for the purchase and installation of eligible storage facilities, permanently affixed drying or handling equipment, or remodeling existing facilities.

The maximum term of the loan is 7 years. The maximum principal amount of any farm storage facility loan shall be 85 percent of the net cost of the applicant's needed storage or handling equipment not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower signing the note and security agreement.

A minimum down payment representing the difference between the net cost of the storage facility and the amount of the loan shall be made by the loan applicant to the supplier or contractor before the loan is disbursed.

Loans shall bear interest at the rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. The interest rate for each loan will remain in effect for the term of the loan. Other requirements may apply.

Website

Producers may access FSA information and forms on the Montana Internet site at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>

Broadwater County FSA

415 South Front Street
Townsend MT 59644

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Important Dates to Remember

January 1 – Begin accepting LDP Agreement for 2008 Crops
January 21 – Holiday - Office Closed
January 31 – Final loan/LDP availability due date for 2007 wool, unshorn pelts
March 17 – NAP application closing date for all crops except value loss and honey
March 17 – Crop insurance sales closing date for 2008 spring-seeded crops

Census of Agriculture

Beginning December 28, 2007, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) started mailing out Census of Agriculture forms to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due by February 4, 2008. Forms may be returned by mail or, for the first time, forms may be filled out online via a secure web site.

Conducted every five years by USDA, the Census is a complete count of the nation's farm and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. The Census provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, contact the NASS Montana Field Office at 406-441-1240 or 1-800-835-2612 or log on to the Montana Agriculture Statistics website at <http://www.agcensus.usda.gov>.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs should contact Nina Fonk, County Executive Director at 415 South Front Street, Townsend, MT 59644 or (406) 266-4253 extension 2 or through e-mail at nina.fonk@mt.usda.gov